



# PUBLIC SAFETY

# REFERENDUM



## VOTE APRIL 4 2023

The Village of Caledonia has identified a need to **add additional public safety personnel to the Police and Fire Departments.**

Voters will be asked whether or not to support an increase in the Village's annual tax levy, beginning with bills issued in December 2023, to cover the cost for **six additional firefighter/paramedics, eight additional police officers and the personal protective equipment those staff members require.**

### WHY REFERENDUM?

Current public safety funding levels and staffing levels are insufficient to meet the service demands and needs of the community. **Caledonia must act now if it is to continue to adequately respond to calls for service.**

Because of state-imposed levy limits, Caledonia must gain approval from taxpayers through a referendum to **increase the tax levy to fund additional staffing.**

Decreasing staffing levels and an increase in calls for service make it difficult for the Caledonia Fire Department to provide a consistent, high-quality response. Federal grant dollars the Department relies on to fund staffing will **expire in March 2023, further straining response capabilities.**

Staffing at the Caledonia Police Department is **too low to enable officers to effectively patrol the large geographic area of the Village** and respond to multiple complex and concurrent calls for service.

### IF A MAJORITY VOTE "YES"

**+6** **ADDITIONAL FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDICS**    **+8** **ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICERS**

If the referendum is approved by a majority of voters, the Village of Caledonia will be able to add critically necessary additional public safety staff, including **six additional firefighter/paramedics and eight additional police officers.** These increases will ensure adequate staff to sufficiently respond to calls for service from Caledonia residents and perform proactive duties.

If approved, taxpayers will see a property tax **increase of an estimated \$57 annually, or about \$1.10 per week, per \$100,000 of assessed value in a home,** starting with the bills issued in December 2023.

### IF A MAJORITY VOTE "NO"

**A rejection of the referendum would not be the equivalent of maintaining the status quo of emergency services.**

The Village of Caledonia received a three-year federal grant to fund six firefighter/paramedics through March 2023. While the Village has worked within its levy limit constraints to maintain three of the six positions, **without additional funding, the Village will be down three firefighters/paramedics.**

The Caledonia Police Department **ranks last in officers per 1,000 population and officers per square mile when compared to peer communities.** Without additional police officers, the Police Department would not be able to effectively patrol the entire geographic area of the Village or effectively handle more than a single call for service at a time that has moderate complexity and/or requires a moderate level of resources.

### PROPERTY TAX IMPACT

\$1,781,000 TOTAL INCREASE

ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE	ESTIMATED TAX INCREASE	
	PER YEAR	PER WEEK
\$100,000	\$57	\$1.10
\$300,000	\$171	\$3.30



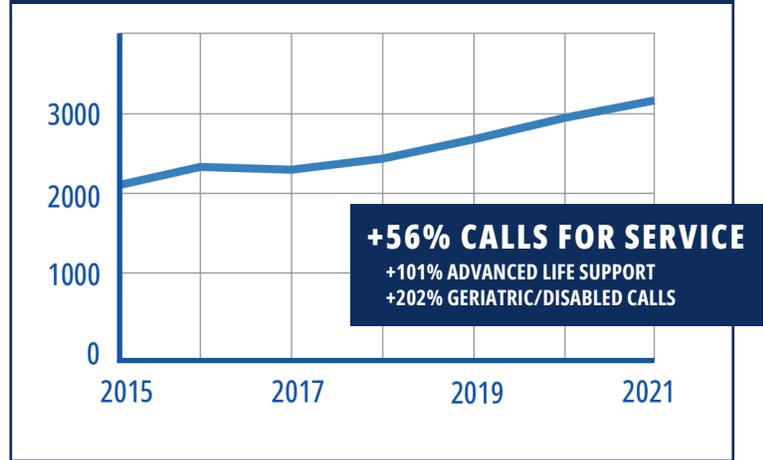
## CRITICAL NEED FOR FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDICS

The Caledonia Fire Department experienced a **56 percent increase in calls for service including a 202 percent increase in calls to assist** geriatric or physically disabled community members between 2015 and 2021, driving the need to increase funding and support additional firefighter/paramedics on staff.

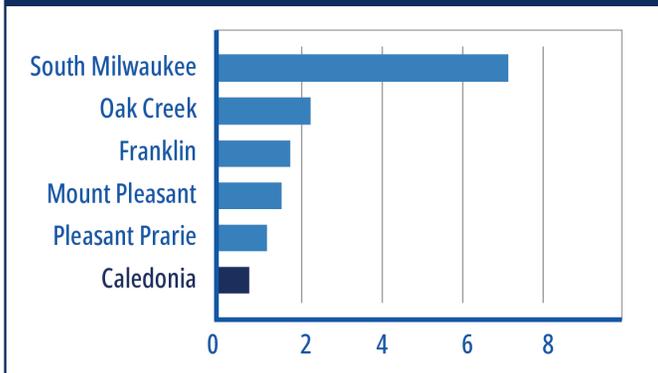
Current staffing levels make it difficult for the Caledonia Fire Department to provide a consistent, high-quality response. **With increased staffing, the Department's minimum staffing would increase from 10 to 13 per shift and enable a second ambulance to be available at Station 12 – which has the greatest call volume in the Village – at all times.**

The Village must take action this year to bring staffing levels up and ensure adequate staff to sufficiently respond to calls for service.

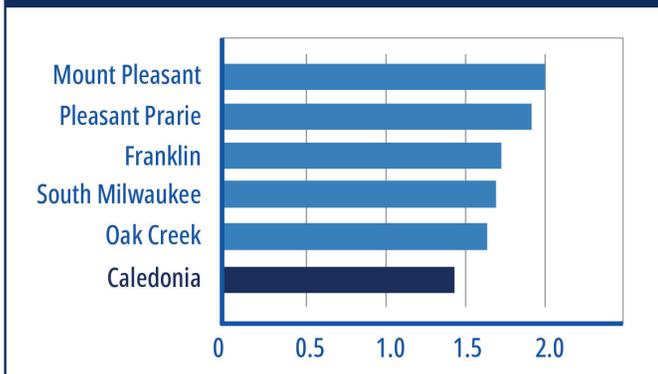
## CFD CALLS FOR SERVICE



## CPD OFFICERS PER SQUARE MILE



## CPD OFFICERS PER 1,000 POPULATION



## CRITICAL NEED FOR POLICE OFFICERS

The Caledonia Police Department is **understaffed compared to peer communities and requires additional officers to effectively provide services to the community.** With just 36 sworn officers, CPD currently staffs a typical shift with four patrol personnel, requiring each officer to patrol about 11.5 square miles – an area larger than many entire municipalities in Wisconsin.

Additional staff resources would enable the Caledonia Police Department to augment its shift staffing to meet peak demand, commit the necessary resources to consistently perform more thorough investigations, and adequately patrol the Village while balancing proactive and reactive duties and having a greater presence in the community.

If the referendum passes, adding eight additional officers to the Police Department would result in Caledonia having approximately .96 officers per square mile and 1.7 officers per 1,000 of population. While officers per square mile would still remain the lowest rate compared to peer communities, officers per 1,000 of population consistent with neighboring communities.

# VOTE APRIL 4

### IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING AT THE CLERK'S OFFICE:

Monday through Friday;  
March 21 – March 31, 2023  
from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### ABSENTEE BALLOT:

Deadline to submit application for mailed absentee ballot:  
March 31, 2023

### ELECTION DAY:

Polling places are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wisconsin voters are required to show an acceptable photo ID in order to vote.